UNITED NATIONS

World Chronicle

PROGRAMME: No. 577, recorded 11 January 1995

GUEST: **Gillian Martin SORENSEN**
Special Advisor for Public Policy to United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

JOURNALISTS: Bhaskar Menon, *The Times of India*
Afsane Bassir Pour, *Le Monde*

MODERATOR: Michael Littlejohns

UNITED NATIONS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

GILLIAN MARTIN SORENSEN, Special Adviser for Public Policy to United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, discusses a wide range of activities relating to the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the international organization. They will include an educational focus with special emphasis on school and university programmes, with materials for both children and youth, as well as a world-wide campaign to relate UN activities, success stories and aspirations through film, television and publications. National-level celebrations will be carried out by national committees and UN Associations as well as non-governmental organizations. These activities will be funded by contributions from private sources and will have no financial implications on the regular UN budget.

WORLD CHRONICLE is produced by the Media Division, Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, U.S.A.

Duration:	28:01"
Executive Producer:	Kamil Taha
Director:	Livingston Hinckley
Production Assistant:	Ellen McGuffie

ANNOUNCER: From United Nations Headquarters in New York, this is **World Chronicle**, an unedited interview programme about major global issues. Here now to introduce our guest is the host of today's **World Chronicle**.

LITTLEJOHNS: I'm Michael Littlejohns, and this is **World Chronicle**.

As the United Nations celebrates its fiftieth anniversary in 1995, it stands at a crossroads in its history. The world organization must seriously rethink the ways in which it deals with a wide range of issues vital to the survival of mankind. The fiftieth anniversary is an opportunity for the Organization to reflect on its achievements and shortcomings as well as to chart a new course for its future.

Our guest today, Gillian Martin Sorensen, is Special Adviser for Public Policy to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Holding the rank of UN Under-Secretary-General, Ms. Sorensen oversees and coordinates matters relating to the fiftieth anniversary celebrations.

Joining me to talk with Ms. Sorensen are Bhaskar Menon of *The Times of India* and Afsane Bassir Pour of *Le Monde*. Ms. Sorensen, welcome to World Chronicle.

SORENSEN: Thank you.

LITTLEJOHNS: Madame Under-Secretary-General, the fiftieth anniversary is, of course, a major event, and we've spoken in the introduction about celebrating the occasion. But I believe that the more sober people in the Secretariat are speaking of a commemoration rather than a celebration. Why is that? Do you feel that perhaps some of the shortcomings make it less of a celebration than it might otherwise be?

SORENSEN: No, I believe there is something to celebrate. There are successes that are worth noting and celebrating. But a commemoration has a larger dimension to it. It is a historic commemoration; it is looking back 50 years and then looking forward 50 years. And we want this anniversary to have some depth, some true substance, to have some analysis and thinking as well as some celebration. So we like to say that the anniversary year will comprise commemoration, education and celebration.

LITTLEJOHNS: We also spoke in the introduction about the UN's being at a crossroads. There's a certain amount of disappointment, of course, among "the peoples", "We, the peoples of the United Nations," as they're referred to in the Charter, that the UN hasn't done more. I mean, it's true that we haven't had world war three yet, but we've had God knows how many local wars and conflicts and skirmishes, some of which are going on in a very nasty way as we speak now. How do you address people who point out the disappointments in the Organization?

SORENSEN: Clearly there have been some disappointments and some flaws and failures. And it's a good time to think hard about those and to see how UN can do better, how UN can do more. It is a turning point. It is a defining moment, I think, for the next half

century. And the fiftieth, in the life of a person or the life of an organization, is a good moment to think about that, and to then look ahead as far as one can to see what can be done better.

At the same time, we don't believe we need to be entirely negative. There are some extraordinary accomplishments, and not just the fact that at 50 the UN is still here, but accomplishments in terms of development, and human rights, and disarmament, and democratization, and environmental action, and humanitarian affairs -- accomplishments that are rarely noted, in fact, often neglected by the press, if I may say. And we hope in the course of this year to give some attention to those achievements.

MENON: So what are you focusing on mainly, for instance, if a country's commission on the observance of the fiftieth anniversary writes you a letter and says, "We'd like to commemorate it. What do you suggest we do?" What kind of stuff do you send back?

SORENSEN: Well, we send quite a bit of material. But we stress at the very heart of this the educational effort. That, above all. And at the centre of that is the Global Teach-In, teaching about United Nations history, structure, purpose, goals and dreams for middle school and high school ages. And we hope that in the third week of October, when UN Day falls, this October and every October thereafter, that schools around the world will teach about UN, will inform and inspire and encourage young people to take an interest.

MENON: About a decade ago you had in the United States very concerted attacks on the UN, sponsored and I think coordinated mainly by the Heritage Foundation. Do you have any kind of problem with that kind of attack any more?

SORENSEN: Well, UN gets its fair share of criticism, you all know that. And I'm sure that will continue. I don't see it as an orchestrated attack, though; I see it as people, sometimes people of goodwill and sometimes not, who see shortcomings in the UN and do address those. I'm not afraid of that. I think this year is a time to listen to those criticisms; some of them have merit. It is not a threat, it is an opportunity to listen to those, to consider whether there is a point there, and in the studies and debates and conferences that will be going on by academicians, by journalists, by historians, by diplomats, both present and past, we hope that these needs will be examined and thoughts put forward to help the UN do better.

BASSIR POUR: To follow up Papa [Bhaskar Menon]'s question, one of your toughest clients happens to be the United States, because most of the other countries, you'd be preaching to the converted. What exactly are you planning to do to change, to begin with, Washington's attitude towards the UN in this year, and the rest of the country?

SORENSEN: Well, I would begin by saying that the public is ahead of the Congress. Statistics show that the public, the great majority of the public, supports a strong UN and a strong US in the UN. We want to convey that message to members of Congress. I'd like to be

able to have a series of tutorials with Congress so that they understand fully what UN is and does, how it works -- and not just peace-keeping, but all the other aspects of United Nations work. We're looking for the opportunity in the very near future to meet with Congress, with members of Congress again, as we have done in the past, to enlarge our constituency there and to persuade them that the United Nations is in the US interest, that it is a bargain at the price, and it is something that fits with the United States historic leadership role and certainly should be for the long-term future.

BASSIR POUR: And what is the US doing to celebrate, or commemorate this year?

SORENSEN: The US has a national committee named -- as do a hundred other countries -- for the UN 50, and of course we're working closely with United Nations Association of the USA, UNA/USA, in planning activities across the country to inform and involve and educate the American public about UN matters.

LITTLEJOHNS: What is a typical national way of celebrating the anniversary?

SORENSEN: There are variations in every country. But it would start with what I referred to a moment ago, the debates and conferences and symposia at colleges, high schools, universities, and so on. Around that would be some historic events. Some countries are naming a park after UN, some are holding a marathon for UN, some are having special television documentaries or special editions of magazines. All of them are joining in the educational effort. And around that there is some celebration, and that takes the form of music especially -- over 100 national orchestras are doing concerts in salute to UN, and local and smaller orchestras too; dance, art especially, many exhibitions of art, including UN posters over the years and including an exhibition of the architecture of the headquarters building; also student essay contests, debate contests and so on.

MENON: And what's going to happen here in New York?

SORENSEN: Here in New York, of course, we will be the host city for the summit gathering in October, when we expect an extraordinary joining of heads of government from around the world. But New York will have, each month if not each week of the year, something. Major colleges will take part -- Columbia, Hunter, NYU and so on. The foreign affairs organizations will have special lecture series. The New York Marathon will have a UN theme. The Horticultural Society will have gardens of the world. The Restaurant Association will have foods, cuisines of the world. There will be a festival of United Nations, a street festival, celebrating all the different ethnic groups that live in New York, and welcoming --

LITTLEJOHNS: Here on First Avenue?

SORENSEN: Not on First Avenue, it will probably be on the West Side.

MENON: The Eighth Avenue festival of foods.

SORENSEN: Right. And there will be a very important and historic interfaith service bringing together members of all the faiths to celebrate, in the tradition of faith, the fact that United Nations is here, and the hopes and prayers that people of faith have for its success.

BASSIR POUR: I understand that you're not using a penny of the regular budget. How is this event being funded?

SORENSEN: You're correct, no money from the regular budget goes to projects or programmes of UN 50. We have been given the opportunity to seek some outside funding. We've had some success in doing that, from foundations, corporations, and a few individuals who believe in the UN and want UN 50 to fulfil its potential. And we've succeeded in raising enough money to meet our major goals. But more importantly, we've discovered that prodigious numbers of activities will happen without any money from here. That is to say they are self funded. People want to take part; they are eager and ready to take part; and they find their own funding to create an event that joins and supports the goals and the commemoration of UN 50.

BASSIR POUR: When you say "people", what people is this?

SORENSEN: It could be academic groups; it could be United Nations Associations in more than 80 countries; it could be peace groups or human rights organizations or housing groups. Many NGOs are organizing their own annual events to have a UN 50 theme. And they do that gladly. And they do find their own resources.

MENON: The theme of the year is "We, the peoples".

SORENSEN: Yes.

MENON: So when you're looking at the commemoration of the year, do ordinary people tend to get to participate in any kind of global event? Is there a television hook-up or a radio hook-up that will allow people to talk to each other?

SORENSEN: You're correct that "We, the peoples" is the theme, and we want very much for all kinds of people to be part of this, not only through the activities I was describing, but there will be, as you suggest, a global concert, in this case a pop concert. It will be telecast from four different locations and then edited into one programme aired by satellite, also by CNN, and others of the international networks will be doing in-depth coverage.

MENON: Anything on Internet?

SORENSEN: We are connected to the Internet. We moved into the 21st century.

MENON: But you know what, it's very funny, because I've just been cruising on Internet, and I came across this file called Fiftieth Anniversary, and I double-clicked on it and found that it was empty. It had nothing in it. So either -- there must be come kind of --

LITTLEJOHNS: Well, give Ms. Sorensen a chance.

SORENSEN: Well, that could be a mistake, because there had been a lot of information, and we'd been getting hundreds of requests.

MENON: Really?

SORENSEN: Maybe it's on overload.

BASSIR POUR: Let's talk about less ordinary people, heads of state. How has this been received, and is there going to be a gathering of heads of state?

SORENSEN: Yes, indeed. All heads of state have been invited by the Secretary-General, at the direction of the General Assembly, to be present in October. As you know, the 24th is the historic UN Day. And, over a year in advance, more than 60 have already accepted. That's quite extraordinary. We expect at least 120. They know that it is once in a lifetime. It truly is a historic moment. And they will come together not only as a group, but surely to have bilateral discussions during those days as well.

MENON: And you're working on some kind of declaration for them to adopt?

SORENSEN: Yes. The Preparatory Committee is working on a declaration, an affirming document of the original Charter that will bring it up to date and then look ahead in a visionary way.

LITTLEJOHNS: This is World Chronicle. Our guest is Gillian Martin Sorensen, Special Adviser for Public Policy to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

BASSIR POUR: There is one question that seems to overshadow the 50th celebration, and that's the question of Mr. Waldheim. Have you made a decision on that question, whether you're going to invite all the Secretaries-General or not?

SORENSEN: My understanding is that this will focus on the current heads of government and heads of state. And at this time it is not foreseen to invite previous Secretaries-General.

BASSIR POUR: So Mr. Perez de Cuellar won't be taking part in anything either?

SORENSEN: They may very well take part in other cities. We need to divide --

LITTLEJOHNS: In their own countries, for example.

SORENSEN: In their own countries, indeed. We need their presence in various locations, and we hope that that will happen.

BASSIR POUR: That's because of Mr. Waldheim's past?

SORENSEN: It is simply because our focus is on today and on the future, especially.

MENON: Speaking about the future, there's a group at Yale University under the chairmanship of Paul Kennedy working on some kind of vision statement for the next 50 years.

LITTLEJOHNS: Some kind of what statement?

MENON: A vision statement, what the UN is going to be like in the next 50 years. What exactly are they thinking about? Have you been in touch with them at all?

SORENSEN: Of course we have. And that's a very important study that's being done. We refer to it as the Ford-Yale study on the United Nations in the 21st century. They brought together an exceptional group of thinkers outside the UN -- so we are bringing some fresh thoughts to this -- to consider how UN might be restructured, in some respects reformed; how it can better address the rising demands and expectations with limited resources in the next half century. That report is one of several that are being done, and, in addition to this, there is consideration of an effort to bring together all of these reports -- there actually are five or six in very recent times -- and to distil those to see if they can be merged or reconciled in some degree, and then to put forward the best of the best recommendations from those several studies and have them given very serious consideration.

MENON: One of the amazing facts about modern reality is how interdependent countries have become in many, many ways that people don't even realize. Based on this, is there any attempt to look at global forms of governance?

SORENSEN: Yes, indeed, and to compare to other organizations. But the UN has its own unique history, and it's not really comparable to others; it stands alone in that sense. And I think, as it evolves, it will have its own unique form.

MENON: But is anyone talking about world government at this stage? Or is that still a taboo?

SORENSEN: There's another report called the Committee on Global Governance that, of course, has made reference to other forms of leadership, but I think the UN structure is being examined in itself and for itself.

LITTLEJOHNS: Ms. Sorensen, you've received quite a bit of corporate support. Gold Star, the big Korean electronics conglomerate, Archer Daniels Midland, Swatch Watches, Electrolux and a few others have come up with quite a lot of money. How did this happen? Did you go, sort of cap in hand, and say, "Please, Gold Star, will you give us $5 million?" -- which is what I believe they're contributing, which is a very substantial amount of money, probably the largest contribution, isn't it?

SORENSEN: We started by considering how we could do this in a way that was absolutely proper, clean and legal. We had to eliminate a number of companies that were in areas that UN didn't want to be associated with -- arms control, alcohol, cigarettes, for example.

LITTLEJOHNS: So Phillip Morris was out, for example.

SORENSEN: That's correct. And then we wrote to a large number of major international companies that had what we perceived to be a global view, we described what we wanted to achieve and we asked if they would like to join with us to seize this historic opportunity to help us convey the message to the world at large.

We are not seeking to be in the fundraising business permanently, we're not professional fundraisers. We had a short time, and we were looking for a handful of major global sponsors. And we did succeed in that. Companies that wanted to assist to a lesser or more modest degree are helping, hundreds of them are helping UNAs around the world, or particular projects in various communities. So there is room for everybody who wants to help.

MENON: But the American corporate world has basically stayed out of the action. Why is that?

SORENSEN: They stayed out of the global action, but they're very much participating in the American action. And I can't fully explain that. We did certainly try with the American companies, and Archer Daniels Midland, of course, is an American company. But for the most part they preferred to focus their efforts in country. And that's been true of a number of other countries that want to keep their contributions within their own boundaries.

BASSIR POUR: Are there any events in San Francisco that will be taking place?

SORENSEN: Yes, indeed. San Francisco very much wants to celebrate its historic moment. The Charter, of course, was drafted there, signed there, and in June there will be a gathering, an historic gathering in San Francisco. All Ambassadors will be invited, and the city has organized actually two months of activities around it. The World Rotary Clubs will meet there; the World Federation of United Nations Associations will meet there; a very large international youth festival will be meeting there; and other peace groups will have meetings at that time.

But on the 25th-26th of June the Ambassadors, the Secretary-General and the President of the United States will be there, and they will actually meet in the building where the Charter was drafted and signed. There will be commemorative events, there will be a concert, there will be a couple of major addresses, and it will be, we think, quite a moving and interesting historic occasion.

BASSIR POUR: A gathering of Nobel Peace Prize winners? Was that a project?

SORENSEN: Yes, the City of San Francisco, who is the organizer for these couple of days, did invite the former Peace Prize recipients. Not all of them have been able to attend, but they believe a number of them will be there, and they look forward to that occasion.

BASSIR POUR: The Dalai Lama could be one of them?

SORENSEN: He was invited, but I am told that he is not able to attend.

LITTLEJOHNS: What about the show biz community? A lot of very liberal people in Hollywood, for example, who've been helpful to Democrats and President Clinton. Have you reached out to them?

SORENSEN: We have reached out to them, and they are helping us organize the one popular concept that I spoke about earlier. We are also using one well-known actor to narrate some of our short public service announcements.

MENON: Which one is this?

BASSIR POUR: Who is that?

SORENSEN: I can't say yet, because it's in discussion and we'll know in a couple of days. But we've had good support from the performing community, and in fact I'm on my way to Los Angeles in a couple of days to meet with them further and to secure some of these --

MENON: You have a tie-in with Miss Universe and Miss World contests?

SORENSEN: No tie-in with Miss Universe! We should, though.

BASSIR POUR: You spoke about education all around the world, especially children. What kind of education? Will there be special teachers, or teachers will be trained to talk about the UN, or --

SORENSEN: We'll be translating and distributing curricular materials so that teachers will have the references in hand that they need to teach this short course in UN. Of course, they can go to other sources as well. But through UNESCO, and with the help of ministries of education, we hope that all teachers of history or social studies or political science will join in this effort. And they'll have the materials to do so, including a poster and suggested lesson plan and so on.

We're also not forgetting little people. Sesame Street is doing a wonderful programme about United Nations. Big Bird is going to come to the UN. You know, Sesame now is in more than 80 countries around the world. It's not too soon to talk about the principles, the sense of universality of UN.

MENON: How do you make sure that what's being retailed about the UN is factually correct? This is a major problem here at the UN itself. Because I've noticed, for instance, in your handout, in the information kit on the fiftieth, that you say that the UN was involved in decolonizing 80 countries, but that is factually not correct. How do you exercise that kind of substantive factual control over what's being said about the UN elsewhere?

SORENSEN: We do the best we can, and certainly on the curricular materials -- we're reviewing those with great care. Certain facts can be debated and interpreted in different ways. But we try our best to be factual. However, we're not censors, and programmes will be produced, articles will be written in the view of the writer or the producer. And we can give them our view of history, and the we have to put our best faith in their good professional work.

LITTLEJOHNS: Mrs. Sorensen, several thousand people work for the United Nations, from messengers to under-secretaries-general like yourself. How are the Secretariat and the

other people in the secretariats of the specialized agencies and other organs of the UN going to celebrate the event?

SORENSEN: I'm glad you asked that question. We have made our efforts to affiliate with agencies -- so that we can spotlight their activities and their achievements, so that we can have some linkage between commemorative events from one agency to the other, especially overseas, where there may be two or three agencies in a given capital, and they can work together on that. We do want to celebrate staff and to honour their work, as well as peace-keepers, and especially peace-keepers who have died in action. And that will be done. We also want to call attention to the former staff members who were present at the creation, who were there in 1945.

LITTLEJOHNS: How many are there?

SORENSEN: There are well over 100 here in New York, and others elsewhere. And they have wonderful stories to tell. So we're going to make certain that they are present at some of the commemorative events.

BASSIR POUR: At the end of this year, what would be the criteria for you to see this as a success, your job for this fiftieth anniversary?

SORENSEN: At the end of the year, if we have enlarged the constituency around the world that knows and understands and cares about United Nations, if we have deepened the understanding, if we have renewed and reinforced the UN for the next half century, then I will feel that the UN fiftieth anniversary year has achieved something very important indeed.

LITTLEJOHNS: Mrs. Sorensen, we have a little less than a minute left. I'd like to come back again to the corporate underwriting, or help, support, whatever you want to call it: What are you doing to prevent or to discourage these corporate concerns from using this to promote their own interests rather than the interests of the UN? I mean, making a big issue: "Look at us, how good we are, because we're supporting the UN."

SORENSEN: Every contract has very tight stipulations about how the affiliation with UN can be used, what kind of language, what kind of placement and lettering and so on. And our partners have been extremely careful about that and correct about that. We feel comfortable with that. What is hard to prevent is pirating. And there are a few companies that have simply lifted the UN 50 logo and run away with it. And we are tracking those very carefully, and --

LITTLEJOHNS: You mean without actually helping?

SORENSEN: Without any discussion.

LITTLEJOHNS: Oh, I see.

SORENSEN: We simply discover that they are using it to their ends. And to the best of our ability we are coming down hard on that to make sure that the UN's name is properly used.

LITTLEJOHNS: Mrs. Sorensen, that's all the time we have. Thank you for being with us on this edition of World Chronicle.

Our guest has been Gillian Martin Sorensen, Special Adviser for Public Policy to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. She was interviewed by Bhaskar Menon of *The Times of India* and Afsane Bassir Pour of *Le Monde*.

I'm Michael Littlejohns. Thank you for joining us. We invite you to be with us for the next edition of World Chronicle.

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Transcripts of the programme may be obtained free of charge by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: **World Chronicle**, United Nations, Room S-827, New York, New York, 10017, USA.

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PROGRAMME: No. 578, recorded 16 January 1995

GUEST: **Richard JOLLY**
Deputy Executive Director
UNICEF

JOURNALISTS: Thalif Deen, Inter Press Service
Linda Fasulo, NBC News

MODERATOR: Michael Littlejohns

UNICEF'S 1995 REPORT: 'THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN'

Richard JOLLY, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), reflects on the state of the world's children. The 1990 World Summit for Children set ambitious goals for improving the health, nutrition and education of all children in developing countries by the year 2000. Specific goals were also set for the mid-point of the decade, 1995. A majority of these goals are going to be met by many of the developing nations. These achievements are an important contribution to social development and to translating words into deeds. Reducing the size of the average family, especially in Africa, is an important factor for the eradication of poverty and the achievement of social development.

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LITTLEJOHNS: I'm Michael Littlejohns, and this is **World Chronicle**.

In the unprecedented 1990 Summit for Children, world leaders set specific and measurable goals to be achieved by the year 2000 -- to protect and encourage the healthy development of children all over the world. The United Nations Children's Fund, or UNICEF, recently stated in its 1995 report "The State of the World's Children" that a set of intermediate goals should be achieved by the end of 1995.

Our guest today is in a unique position to reflect on the report and on the state of the world's children. He is Richard Jolly, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF.

Joining me to talk with Mr. Jolly are Thalif Deen of Inter Press Service and Linda Fasulo of NBC News. Mr. Jolly, welcome to World Chronicle.

JOLLY: Thank you very much.

LITTLEJOHNS: Mr. Acting Executive Director, "The State of the World's Children" report for 1995 is one of the most encouraging documents that I think UNICEF has produced over the years, or in several years. Would you think that perhaps this is the result -- the improvements in the condition of children are the result of greater awareness as an outcome of the Summit for Children?

JOLLY: Certainly. But the report as a whole is a report of qualified optimism. It shows that many of the areas of action agreed on in the 1990 Summit of 71 heads of state have been taken very seriously -- in terms of child health, child nutrition, increasing access to water and sanitation, family planning; and we're beginning to see the results. And at a time when perhaps too many people see only Rwanda, Somalia, Afghanistan -- some of the crisis countries -- it's good to be reminded that though those countries are in serious trouble, many other developing countries, indeed the majority, are showing increasing human progress, for children, but also in other ways.

LITTLEJOHNS: Can you identify some of the areas in which progress has been made, specific instances of progress?

JOLLY: Yes. Well, measles is a very good example. Measles for most children in developing countries is a very serious disease, a big killer. There was a period in the early 1980s that something like 2.5 million children were dying each year from measles. That's now down to more like 1 million. Polio, which even in the industrial countries back in the early post-war era was a scourge, a terrible thing -- the man who taught me in university got polio in his grown-up life and then died early -- with polio in developing countries we've seen the number of cases go down from half a million in the early '80s now down to something like

100,000, and, with the help of the World Health Organization, we are working to its complete eradication from the face of this earth.

LITTLEJOHNS: What is the number one problem now?

JOLLY: I wouldn't say any one number one problem. Health, education, nutrition, water sanitation -- all of these are key areas, they're all ones where we can see progress. If you say, "What now needs to be done?", we have these mid-decade goals -- to push immunization coverage higher yet; to bring measles further down; to tackle diarrhoea, which is still an important killer, although no longer the number one killer of children; to tackle --

LITTLEJOHNS: That's caused by poor sanitation, mainly?

JOLLY: Well, poor sanitation, but often lack of breastfeeding. All sorts of ways in which children get diarrhoea and do not have adequate support. Children get diarrhoea; the question is, is it serious or is it mild? The key thing is for all mothers, all family members to know they need to feed the child regularly, to encourage the child to go on drinking. Those are the sort of actions. We've already seen considerable progress. The target for 1995 is 80 per cent of families knowing what to do when the child gets diarrhoea. Other goals are: to tackle acute respiratory infection; to eradicate iodine deficiency, which is the largest single cause of mental deficiency in the world today -- we think we're going to see that. These are all very impressive movements forward in the world battle against poverty.

DEEN: Dr. Jolly, your 1990 Summit for Children was a very major summit that was held at the UN. You had certain targets, certain objectives. How much have these targets achieved? I'm asking you this question because some western nations are calling for a moratorium on UN conferences, because they say let's first implement the declarations adopted at all these conferences. There are six conferences since your conference in 1990. What is your response to this?

JOLLY: Well, the short response in my mind is let's make sure if we hold an international conference it's going to do some good. I think the World Summit for Children in 1990 has already done a lot of good, although most of the goals set at that meeting were for the year 2000. So we see progress towards them; many of them have not yet been achieved, even though we can see progress. What I think emerged from the World Summit for Children is the experience of how do we make a summit not just a talk shop but the beginning of a serious process supported by countries, non-government groups, the UN agencies themselves. In the words of Prime Minister Mulroney of Canada, who played a key role in that conference, how can we make sure this is a question of the deeds of the decade and not just the words of the day? Set clear goals, rule one. Rule two, country by country needs to take those goals, adopt them and adapt them to the specific situation of their country in preparing some form of programme of action. Ninety-three countries since the World Summit for Children have

prepared such a programme of action. Thirdly, the UN agencies need to get behind the country in supporting implementation of that. We may talk about UNICEF, but in the World Summit for Children, the role of WHO is important, the role of UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, World Bank. Many of us have different roles in different countries. That's critical to make sure that the UN system as a whole follows up the words.

Finally, monitoring. You don't just set goals and then hope it all happens. You need to monitor year by year -- in some cases month by month -- what is happening, so you take follow-up action and course corrections. Mexico, Tanzania, a number of developing countries have set up their own monitoring processes whereby every six months or so a head of state looks at the progress, not just in a secret cabinet meeting, but sometimes on television, with NGOs, with key actors -- the minister of finance, minister of education and health, and so forth. We feel that the public monitoring process is critical, because unless ordinary people are brought into this process, the achievements won't be up to the ambition or the goals.

FASULO: I have a question regarding Russia and the former Soviet Republics. We all read that conditions there have deteriorated dramatically. What does UNICEF -- what are your priorities there?

JOLLY: Well, we have joined with the rest of the UN three years ago in a major series of missions which we led jointly with WHO to see in the area of health what could be done. And in a limited, highly selective way we've been following up with the support of different donors. The Canadian Government gave us $7.5 million for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus support. So we're struggling. But the truth is the enormity of the problem -- problems -- far exceeds the resources made available to the UN, I would say, or to the [World] Bank or the IMF, in relation to the problems.

We have been supporting a monitoring process in Russia and a number of the former Soviet Union countries and in some in east and central Europe. The truth is the human setbacks in these countries in the last three, four years are greater than we've seen in almost any other part of the world, admittedly from a higher level, but in terms of the proportionate fall in nutrition, in support for the aged, in support for children, early child school programmes and so forth, it is very serious. I personally believe passionately it is not in the world interest to allow this vast area to start to decline in human terms as well as economic terms.

FASULO: Just following up on that, so what is the problem? I don't quite understand. Is it that UNICEF doesn't normally deal with Russia because it's a developed country and so would need special funding? Or -- I mean, why aren't the funds available?

JOLLY: If I talk about UNICEF in particular, which I think is your question, our Board has discussed what should be the response to Russia [and] to the other 26 or so countries of the CIS and east and central Europe region. For some that meet the criteria of

developing countries, the Board has authorized us to start specific programmes, $1 million, $2 million a year. They're modest. For the other countries, the Board has said only provide support if they're specially contributed funds, which is why I was referring to the funding issue. But honestly, to have a proper perspective, we're talking about a region of 300 to 400 million people, if you include all the associated territories. It needs a major western industrial country response to help these countries get through this transition, to get through this transition with a strong protection of the human needs of their peoples in order to build thriving economies for a post-planned economy phase. With the greatest of respect, I don't think western policy has fully taken that aboard. UNICEF's report three years ago showed that for $420 million for 18 months, '92-93, you could protect the health systems in all these territories. The money did not come forward for this focused effort. Probably as much went into health in unfocused ways, but not to achieve the protection that was needed, and the result is that we've seen a million more people die in Russia alone due to rising mortality rates. It's a tragedy, a human tragedy, but I would say it's a global tragedy.

DEEN: Dr. Jolly, you mentioned resources. Aren't the bulk of your resources now being diverted to emergency situations?

JOLLY: No, that is a myth, to be honest. It is true that the proportion of UNICEF's annual programme expenditure going to emergencies has risen, from about 10 per cent in 1990 to about 29 per cent in '93, although in 1994 it's fallen a bit. But this, I am pleased to say, was not a diversion; it was an increase in emergency spending without any decrease for non-emergency spending. Indeed, the support for these programmes in the World Summit for Children -- the health, the education and the nutrition in non-emergency countries -- has continued to grow, slowly, but it has grown, it has not declined.

LITTLEJOHNS: This is World Chronicle, our guest is Richard Jolly, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. Mr. Jolly, there's been a change of -- a sea change, shall we say, in the Congress of the United States. And some of the new people in power there are not exactly enamoured of the United Nations. Do you anticipate problems as far as finances are concerned from these somewhat unfriendly individuals?

JOLLY: Well, we never anticipate pessimism in UNICEF, we're an optimistic organization. That said, we are pleased that we have worked with all parties in the US since the beginning of UNICEF nearly 50 years ago, and we feel the real issue is efficient action for children. And it is that appeal that we hope will be sufficient to overcome doubt. Let me say again, though, I'm not making a point just for UNICEF. I believe if a proper perspective is taken of the UN as a whole, and the UN shapes up on management, which all of us need to do, UNICEF and the rest, I think people will see that what the UN is offering is actually cheap at the price. I love to quote the example of the eradication of smallpox. $300 million that cost;

it saves even the United States $1500 million a year in not having to go through those certificates with every immigrant coming in, all the other processes. There are a lot of other examples in this fiftieth anniversary of the UN where the UN has demonstrated it can achieve things, and often at low cost.

LITTLEJOHNS: Early in the programme you mentioned something about family planning. As we all know, this is a very controversial subject in the United States. And it resulted in the withdrawal of funding for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Are you very much involved in family planning in UNICEF, or is it not within the purview of UNFPA?

JOLLY: Well, it certainly is primarily for UNFPA to give a lead, but over the last three years our UNICEF Executive Board, with the strong support I should say of the United States, but also the Nordic countries, has pressed us, UNICEF, to work ever more closely with UNFPA at country level, and of course with WHO, with NGOs, and so forth. And so if you actually look at the agenda from Cairo, which was a holistic --

LITTLEJOHNS: The Population Conference.

JOLLY: The Population Conference in Cairo in September -- it set a holistic approach. Family planning does not mean condoms and pills, it means empowering women, it means helping all members of a family to support -- health, better health for children, better health for mothers, particularly the whole range of elements in reproductive health. If those things are done, people choose and find various ways to have smaller families.

If I can just end this, people need to realize also the reduction of fertility is one of the great success stories of the world, and the UN in the 1950s and '60s led the way. The average family size in developing countries was over 6 in the late 1960s. It is today 3.7. To have the conditions for stable population, it needs to come down to 2.1 or so. In other words, we've already reduced average family size more than half the amount required to set the conditions for world population stability. Back in 1970, projections of the world population for the year 2000 were 8 billion. Projections now are barely 6 [billion].

FASULO: What do you think the prospects are for reducing the birth rate?

JOLLY: It's already going down much faster than many people realize, and many people expected. So we should all take courage from that. And I think we know, as Nafis Sadik brought out in Cairo, much of what to do.

LITTLEJOHNS: The head of UNFPA.

JOLLY: Yes, I'm sorry. The broader agenda of issues. The challenge, though, is we can't rest on our laurels. There's a need for average family size fertility to come down more and faster, particularly in the poorest parts of the world, and particularly in Africa. Otherwise, Africa is having to run so fast just to keep up with school enrolments, health, and so forth. So

we need more action, but it shouldn't just be action focused, as I say, on the condoms, on the pills; it needs to be broad-based action focused on empowerment of people, women's empowerment, women's education and broad-based development.

DEEN: Dr. Jolly, UNICEF I believe is promoting a new concept called the 20/20 initiative, and you want the developing countries to spend about 20 per cent of their national budgets on the social sector, and you want donors to earmark 20 per cent for the social sector as well. But there are certain developing countries which say this is a violation of their national sovereignty and they should have the right to decide how they spend their money, be it military spending or in the social sector. Do you plan to bring this up at the next Social Summit?

JOLLY: Certainly we hope to support it at the next Social Summit because issues in relation to 20/20, as we call it -- and we even have a booklet -- issues in relation to 20/20 are already in the documents, the Declaration and the Plan of Action for the Summit. So we think it's a very realistic way of generating the resources required to implement the goals of the World Summit for Social Development, to mobilize international action to reduce poverty. Does this mean that we dispute the right of developing countries to choose? Of course not. If a country is going to have a programme to tackle poverty, only it can put forward that programme. Does this mean we tell the donors what they must do? No. What we do say is three things: First, that it is to reach the goals in the basic social services -- health, education, nutrition, water -- which are all in the World Summit for Social Development document. To reach those goals will cost $30 to $40 billion extra per year. Second, we say "Where will that come from?" And we make a calculation that if developing countries were to restructure their priorities, perhaps less in military spending, certainly to cut down debt, if there could be an international agreement on debt, but just to restructure priorities, they could generate about two-thirds of this by restructuring, as you say, by taking 20 per cent on average of their public expenditure as the goal and putting it to these areas of basic health, education, nutrition, water. Similarly, we say on the developing country side if donors would push up from about 10 per cent to about 20 per cent of aid the amount they contribute to these key sectors that they would find the money required. So that is the key second issue. The third point about 20/20 is that it's within our grasp. We needn't say "How can you find the money?", we're saying it's reasonable to restructure, and that this 20/20 would give one guidelines to inspire all sorts of groups to push for these priorities.

FASULO: Can I ask you, what portion of the world's poorest countries right now are reaching that 20 per cent target?

JOLLY: The short answer is I don't know exactly what proportion. I do know that a number of the countries that have achieved universal education for all, primary education, that have got health services, reasonable nutrition programmes, access to clean water for all,

particularly the countries of southeast Asia, have done that either with about 20 per cent, and in some cases with even a bit less than 20 per cent of their budgets. So we have got studies of particular country experiences to show this is well based as a call. I don't have here the specific answer for all countries, although this is one of the topics on which UNICEF, and let me say UNDP, have got research programmes to try and get better country data, better country experience.

DEEN: Dr. Jolly, there is a coalition of NGOs who say this is inadequate, and they're calling for 50/50.

JOLLY: Well, the reason for that -- I'm aware of that, and let me make it clear. 20/20 is a realistic calculation on what is needed to meet the goals of basic social services for all. If you say, "But what about the rest of poverty eradication?", you need other resources for that, as we with our UNDP colleagues keep emphasizing. You need credit for women; you need support for poorest families to either grow enough food for themselves, or if they're working in the urban sector, to earn enough to be able to buy the food. And you don't just -- man does not live by bread alone, you need a few other things -- candles, matches, the wherewithal for shelter, and so forth.

In order to get the resources for this other half of the agenda focused on generating enough income for poorest families, you need other resources. And some of us have said, well, perhaps there should be a parallel programme, 20/20 for basic social services, perhaps 15/15 for these other areas, perhaps 30/30. And some of the NGOs said, in which case, if it's 20 and 20 and 30 and 30, that would make 50 and 50. All it would mean from an aid point of view is that donors could say to their populace half of aid will go directly to helping poor people generate the resources to meet their basic human needs. And that's what surveys show ordinary people want aid to be all about. So I think it's a good target, even if it does need a bit more work.

LITTLEJOHNS: Mr. Jolly, we have only about a minute left, but let me speak a bit about the situation in Somalia and Rwanda. Your people had a pretty rough time there. Have these experiences resulted in any change of strategy on your part?

JOLLY: Some changes of strategy, certainly. We've had to give much more attention to security. The difficulty of working in some of these countries has, to be frank, increased. Our strategy is ever more to team up with UNHCR, World Food Programme, the others that are working. But in terms of -- and increasingly finding ways to work with the peace-keeping forces, as in Bosnia, Rwanda and Somalia. This said, we must also tackle the emergencies. We cannot neglect children, we cannot neglect people if we're going to show the human solidarity that the world community demands. But I would ask people to realize that it's at most 10 per cent of the world population that is caught up in these crisis situations, however awful, and we

can't neglect them, but we also should take hope. Progress elsewhere is actually moving, and we should have this element of qualified optimism.

LITTLEJOHNS: Mr. Jolly, that's all the time we have. Thank you for being with us on this edition of World Chronicle. Our guest has been Richard Jolly, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. He was interviewed by Thalif Deen of Inter Press Service and Linda Fasulo of NBC News. I'm Michael Littlejohns. Thank you for joining us. We invite you to be with us for the next editión of World Chronicle.

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